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International Court of Justice

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CERTIFICATE

USA 615

I, Carl R. Blumenstein, 1st Lt. AC, Chief, Field Branch, Documentation Division, do hereby declare that the documents known as: U S A Exhibits Nos. 615 and 628 (also by th OCC designations as : 3725 and 3726 - PS, resp.) are true photostatic copies of interrogation reports on the defendant Schacht, said reports being excerpts from a report covering several interrogations , and on several different people. The document labled as USA 615 covers pages 21 to 28 of this report and is signed by the defendant Schacht, dated 20 July 1945. The document known as USA 628 covers pages 82 to 103 of this report and is signed by the defendant Schacht, dated 24 August 1945. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the originals of thâse documents are in the office of the AC of S , G-2 , USFET.

Nurnberg, 9 May 1946

Carl R. Blumenstein

CARL R. BLUMENSTEIN,
1st Lt, AC, Chief , Field Branch

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Exhibit B 615

Interrogation of Hjalmar Schacht -- 2:45 p. m., 20 July 1945.

Q. I want to discuss with you this afternoon the same matters I have discussed with Mr. Fritz Thyssen, namely your early relationships with the Nazi Party and the methods you used and the circumstances in which you later broke away from the party. When did you first hear of Hitler, as far as you can remember?

A. About November, 1923.

Q. When did you first meet Hitler or any of his associates?

A. I met Goering in the middle of December 1930 for the first time in my life. It was after my resignation from the Reichsbank.

Q. Before we go into the Goering meeting, let me have your account of your joining up. You told Major Tilley you resigned from the Reichsbank because you were opposed to Mueller's view in relation to the Young Plan?

A. The Young Plan was drafted in the summer of 1929, and it was accepted by the Hague Conference at the beginning of 1930, and between the draft and the acceptance, the German government gave away a good many advantages.

Q. What were they?

A. I have outlined most of these points in a written and printed memorandum which I published the sixth of December, 1929.

Q. Will you give a brief outline of the points?

A. I can't remember them. The essential one was the all inclusive reparations clause of the Young Plan, which was not kept: that all the claims which Germany had against the Poles under the Young Plan should be settled.

Q. Those were claims arising out of the resettlement of German nationals?

A. Claims of two billion marks for German property which was left behind in Poland, and for which the Poles had to pay. Those claims were given up without any reciprocal advantages. Other features of the Young Plan were discussed and several other points.

Q. Do you remember the other points?

A. No, I do not. Just ask the Reichsbank to send you the memorandum. It is in the files.

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Q. Those advantages were gratuitously given away by the Mueller Government? Was that the primary reason for your leaving the Reichsbank?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you ever opposed to the Young Plan?

A. I could not be against it. I was never opposed to the Young Plan, which I had drafted and signed with the other experts.

Q. You regard the Young Plan then, from a German point of view, as being better than the Dawes Plan?

A. I think the Young Plan was a progress towards the definite solution of the reparations problem.

Q. You know, of course, that Fritz Thyssen has quite different views, and that he regards the Dawes Plan as more satisfactory from the German point of view than the Young Plan?

A. In this respect, I differ from Thyssen.

Q. Do you have any other comment on that difference?

A. No, I do not.

Q. Are there any other prominent Germans who took Thyssen's point of view?

A. I cannot tell you.

Q. You don't know of any?

A. No. His point of view was rather startling to me.

Q. When was your resignation from the Reichsbank effective?

A. Second of April, 1930.

Q. And when did you meet Goering for the first time?

A. In December, 1930.

Q. How did you meet him?

A. A mutual friend of ours, a Mr. Strauss of the Deutsche Bank, invited me to his house in order to meet Goering.

Q. Were there any other Nazis present?

A. Nobody else was present.

Q. What was the nature of that conversation you had with Goering?

A. The nature of the conversation was generally about the German financial situation and the economic difficulties.

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Q. Did Goering at that time impress you as a man who understood the basic problems of Germany's economic life?

A. No, he did not.

Q. You left the meeting with an unfavorable reaction or attitude toward the Nazi Party?

A. Well, no, we did not talk about the Nazi Party as a whole, and I had no special impression of the party either good or bad. Goering merely impressed me as having little knowledge or understanding of finance and economics generally.

Q. When did you next see Goering?

A. He invited me to a party in his house for the ~~first~~ 5th of January 1931, where I met Hitler.

Q. Did you meet anybody else?

A. At that party Fritz Thyssen was also present, and that evening Hitler made a long speech, for almost two hours, although the company was a small one.

Q. Was that a monologue?

A. An entire monologue and everything that he said was reasonable and moderate that night.

Q. What did he say?

A. Oh, ideas he expressed before, but it was full of will and spirit.

Q. What did he say?

A. He elaborated his program as it was outlined more extensively in his book.

Q. And in the party platform?

A. Yes, also the party platform. But the platform is very short and brief, it is not so full of general phrases.

Q. Were there any other prominent officers present?

A. No.

Q. Any industrialists like Fritz Thyssen?

A. No.

Q. What was your impression at the end of that evening?

A. I thought that Hitler was a man with whom one could cooperate.

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Q. Did you think he was a man of the future and that you had to deal with him as a man of the future?

A. Well, I could not know that at the time.

Q. Did you think it desirable to join the Nazi Party at that time?

A. I can't tell you as to that time, but if his ideas, which he developed that night, were backed by a big party, as it seemed to be, I think that one could join that group for public purposes.

Q. I take it you have read "Mein Kampf" very carefully?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he denounce and renounce any of the ideas he presented in his book "Mein Kampf"?

A. We had not mentioned the book at all.

Q. I wanted to understand whether his speech was more or less along the lines of "Mein Kampf", which is quite inconsistent with your social attitudes, as you stated to Major Tilley. For example, the question of the Jew. You were opposed to the anti-semitic activities of the Nazi Party.

A. Yes.

Q. Being a banker, you undoubtedly believed in law and order?

A. Yes.

Q. And you did not believe in revolution or seizure or violence which Hitler expressed in "Mein Kampf". Now, do you mean that he gave a more moderate presentation of his views?

A. I think at that particular night, he was very moderate.

Q. What was your feelings regarding the Versailles Treaty?

A. I did not approve. I think the Versailles Diktat was not a good thing.

Q. What were some of the ideas of moderation which convinced you that it might be possible to cooperate with Hitler?

A. A great deal of all this stuff in "Mein Kampf" is of course written for propaganda, and I did not think that everything which is written down is to be carried out verbally afterwards. If that were so, I would be pleased to give you more definite answers, but you see, people talk to the public in one way, and act more moderately the other way.

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Q. In 1931, I suppose the most difficult question confronting any German Government was the question of unemployment?

A. Yes.

Q. What did Hitler say that evening on that issue, do you remember?

A. Yes, he developed his ideas to employ people by giving work to them.

Q. What kind of work?

A. Oh, mostly in public works. There was a great program of repairs on housing, machinery and so on, and there was a program for building auto roads and similar large scale programs.

Q. What about the armaments?

A. He did not say anything about armaments that night as far as I can remember, but that was not the outstanding idea discussed, to employ people.

Q. Did he discuss the Versailles Treaty?

A. Oh, certainly.

Q. Also the necessity of becoming free?

A. Certainly.

Q. And you were generally in agreement?

A. Certainly.

Q. Did you express to him at this meeting your intention to join him or support him or help him by advice or otherwise in securing control of the German Government by lawful means?

A. I did not express views of approbation or any similar feelings, but left it to the future whether we should meet again and how things would develop.

Q. I see. When did you meet him or Goering again?

A. In the course of the year 1931, I have perhaps met Goering and Hitler once or twice only.

Q. When did you make up your mind and announce it to your friends and to Goering and to Hitler, etcetera, that you were going to support the Nazi Party?

A. In the second part of 1932.

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Q. What was the occasion for that announcement?

A. I think it was at the election campaign in July, 1932.

Q. Was that the presidential election?

A. No. It was the Reichstag election when Papen was Chancellor. After the elections, I met Hitler several times.

Q. When did you announce your intention to support Hitler?

A. On those occasions I told him that I was in favor of his becoming Chancellor.

Q. Was this announcement made by you to Hitler, of common knowledge?

A. It became publicly known in, I should say, November, 1932.

Q. When did you make that speech in Denmark praising Hitler?

A. In the spring, 1931.

Q. Did you support Hitler then?

A. I did not say very much about Hitler then. I said a good many things about the Versailles Treaty, but not about Hitler. I said if I were Chancellor, I would denounce reparations payments and this is still my view! This speech was in the beginning of March, three or four months before the Hoover Moratorium.

Q. You met Hitler then in January 1931?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this speech discussed with anyone in the Government?

A. No sir.

Q. Was it discussed with any of your friends in financial circles?

A. No sir.

Q. It represented your ideas exclusively?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you said you met Hitler or Goering one or two times in 1931. Do you remember where or when?

A. No, I don't remember.

Q. Did you have any discussions with Funk in 1931?

A. I don't remember, I doubt it. I had very little relations with him at that time, and only in a private capacity.

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Q. Do you recall any conversations with Funk in 1932, or any time prior to March 1933, when you were reappointed to the Reichsbank, about your support of the party?

A. I don't remember.

Q. When you decided in the middle of 1932 to lend your support to Hitler's becoming chancellor, what measures did you take to carry out that intention, by speeches or by talking to influential people?

A. I did not do anything. I just expressed my own opinion, but not to any crowd or to any assembly.

Q. But you did talk to friends in financial circles?

A. Yes, occasionally. I did not do any propaganda work in 1932 nor before.

Q. Let us then direct our attention to February and March, 1933. I have been told by Goering and by Funk and Baron von Schnizler and also by Thyssen, that there was a meeting held in the house of Goering of certain prominent German industrialists at which you were also present in 1933. This was after Hitler became chancellor but before the elections of that spring. Hitler came into the meeting and made a short speech and left. Then, according to the testimony of Funk, you passed the hat. You asked the industrialists to support the Nazi Party financially to the tune of approximately 7, 8, 9 or 10 million marks. Do you recall that?

A. I recall that meeting very well. And I have answered the same question to Major Tilley. It must be in one of my former memorandums or in the hearings done by Major Tilley. As far as I remember, the meeting was not in Goering's house, but in some hotel room I think, or some other more public room. After Hitler had made his speech the old Krupp von Bohlen answered Hitler and expressed the unanimous feeling of the industrialists to support Hitler. After that I spoke for the financial part only, not on political principles or intentions. And the amount which I collected was 3 million marks. The apportionment amongst the industrialists was made not by me but by they themselves and the payments afterwards were made to the bank of Delbruck Schickler. The books will certainly show

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the amounts which were paid in, and which went to the party. I had nothing to do with that account. I just played the role of cashier or financial treasurer at the meeting itself.

Q. Were there any representatives of any of the large banks or insurance enterprises at the meeting?

A. I would say that almost nobody had been left out. All the prominent industrialists and bankers must have been present.

Q. Baron von Schnitzler told me that I. G. Farben paid 700,000 marks. If that figure were true, the 3 million figure looks somewhat small. Funk told me 10 million marks. Are you certain of this 3 million mark figure?

A. I am certain of that figure, the 3 million marks. And I guess that the payments at that time from the I. G. Farben were much lower. But it could be verified by the books of the bank.

Q. We have the records of payment of the I. G. Farben accounts, which indicate payment of 700,000 marks.

A. I don't know anything about that because that was left to the firms themselves.

Q. Thyssen has told me that in steel it was based on the amount of steel production. Can you tell me anything about its apportionment in the banking world?

A. No, I cannot. I was not in a bank at that time, but I was a private man, and I had nothing to do with the apportionment. This meeting was held, I think, around the 25th of February.

Q. And you were appointed president of the Reichsbank?

A. March 17, 1933.

Q. Prior to your appointment, apparently in the month of February, you are reported as boasting privately that you were the Fuhrer's financial advisor, and that the Nazis would not undertake anything in the realm of economics and finance without your approval. Were any such commitments made by You to Hitler or Goering?

A. Never.

Q. Did you ever make any such statements as the statement just quoted?

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A. I think the statement is the usual exaggerated talk which grows by spreading it.

Q. What did you think the original statement was?

A. The original statement might have been that I hoped to do reasonable financing and that if I had a chance, I would see to it. I have never boasted in this way as the statement tells. It seems to me a little bit foolish.

Q. Yes, I agree with you. It seems foolish. Was there any discussion in 1932 at any time what your function in the government would be if Hitler became Chancellor?

A. Never. There was never any discussion of making use of my services.

Q. What other persons at this time were giving advice or were being sought by Hitler and Goering and Company, besides you?

A. I can't tell you.

Q. As far as you know, you were the principal financial advisor of Hitler during this period to the extent that he was willing to listen to advice.

A. He has not listened much to my advice. In 1932, I did not advise anything. We have never had any discussion along these lines, only a few in the field of politics. I did not want to be mixed up with politics too much. I wanted to remain a "Fachman", an expert in this special business.

Q. You have said that you regarded yourself primarily as a "Fachman" and you were not interested in politics?

A. Yes, not too much.

Q. I asked you whether you had any discussions with Hitler on subjects falling within your special knowledge, namely, finance, and you have said no. There was apparently nothing then in the way of your specialty that would lead you to support Hitler.

A. I discussed agricultural subjects, discussed small industries, discussed social matters, how to represent the workmen and other points of view.

Q. Well, in this respect, would it be appropriate in describing you

as one of his economic advisors, or consultant?

A. No. He did not consult with me. You asked me about my conversations with him and if there was a conversation with him. It was of course with these matters, but the conversations with Hitler were mostly monologues from his side, which is generally known in the meanwhile, I think.

Q. Was there anything that he said along economic lines or financial lines which convinced you that he might make a good leader for Germany or, were you convinced primarily on other grounds?

A. He had never objected to any of my economic ideas, or acts or actions. He let me work entirely freely. Before I became President of the Reichsbank he hadn't objected to my ideas. My ideas were the same ideas I have today in economic principles.

Q. Let us have at this time a systematic recapitulation of your economic principles?

A. Very difficult. I think that in my statements which I gave to Major Tilley there is a good deal of those principles contained. In the matter of reemployment, I was in favor of building streets and autobahn roads of all kinds, also all kinds of public works. I was in favor of extending small business and industries, not so much the big business and industries. I was in favor of certain state control of the big concerns.

Q. For what purpose?

A. For keeping them within the lines of general welfare.

Q. Did you propose changing the economic life of the nation?

A. I did not.

Q. What about cartels?

A. My views on that are known, I think.

Q. Any other ideas?

A. Along agricultural lines, I was greatly in favor of technical improvements, using more modern machines and using investments for raising the production of agricultural products. I was very much in favor of settling the workmen outside of the cities with houses and small garden properties where they could raise their own vegetables hard to procure elsewhere. They could all year round raise

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vegetables and keep small animals for breeding purposes and so on. And all of these ideas were quite in the same line as Hitler expressed himself on. At least he never said to the contrary.

Q. Did you have any discussions with respect to the problem of Germany's foreign trade?

A. No. I did not believe that any change of foreign trade was discussed at this time. I have always believed that Germany's goods should be exported with other nations on a fair exchange basis. Hitler did not object to that.

Q. Did I understand your statement that Hitler's appeal to you lay in the fact that he did not object to your economic proposals?

A. Yes. He approved of them.

Q. Did he say that he would try to carry them out?

A. Yes. At least, I took that feeling from the conversations, that he would do this.

Q. What positive promises did Hitler make outside of the realm of economics, which were appealing to you.

A. None, whatever.

Q. Were you in the German Government employ at the time of the Versailles Treaty?

A. No. I was a private banker connected with the Deutsche Bank from 1916 to 1923.

Q. Have you written or spoken publicly on the Versailles Treaty prior to 1931?

A. Many times.

Q. Do you recall when you initially published criticism of the Versailles Treaty?

A. I think it was in 1921. At that time, I went to Paris and to London and discussed the Versailles matter with industrialists and merchants.

Q. This was in your private capacity as a banker?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of your criticism of the Treaty at that time?

A. I think I put all the criticism in my book "The End of Reparations", which appeared in Germany and in England and in America.

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Q. Your criticisms were primarily in terms of the reparations clause of the Versailles Treaty, is that correct?

A. Primarily with the reparations problem, but I think I have also touched other problems such as the "14 Points" which were broken afterwards, which were never a part of the Versailles Treaty.

Q. With whom did you have your discussions in Paris in 1921?

A. In Paris, I had a conversation with the Finance Minister De Lasterie. He invited me to see some common friend of ours. And in London, I had talks with some members of the British commonwealth industrial union.

Q. What was the reaction to your criticisms of the treaty in France and elsewhere?

A. Well, the British people saw the difficulties which arose from the Versailles Treaty and from the reparations question.

Q. What about the French?

A. Well, De Lasterie was an official and could not admit anything.

Q. What is the next event in your criticisms of the Versailles Treaty?

A. I don't recall them all, as on every occasion I have made speeches.

Q. Which speech most fully reflected your views, the speech you made in Denmark?

A. In the course of 1930 in October and November, I made a lecture tour through the United States, and there, I think, I have outlined every point of view which I raised in criticism of the Versailles Treaty as far as economics and general ideas are concerned.

Q. Have these speeches ever been collected in a publication or are they available only through the press?

A. The press has reported on them and they form the basis of my book "The End of Reparations".

Q. Were you also a critic of the Weimar Republic?

A. No. On the contrary, I was with the "Democraten Party" until 1925 and I left the party because they wanted to take away the property of the former princes and royal houses.

Q. You realize that that was provided for in the Weimar Constitution?

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A. Yes. But they wanted to do things against the constitution and they did not want to keep within the lines of the constitution. In fact, they did not succeed. They wanted to take more than they were entitled to under the Weimar Constitution.

Q. That puzzles me Mr. Schacht. I have read the Weimar Constitution and under that provision, there are no limitations on compensations or anything else.

A. Well I cannot explain to you the exact details of opinions at that time, but my feeling was that it was a bad example to show in the way of protection of private property if the desires of the "Democraten Party" would go through, and it did not go through. I cannot tell you the difference between them and me.

Q. Why do you regard this as dangerous or undesirable from the point of view of private property?

A. If a man has taken away private property against the established law, I think it is dangerous for the future development of private property principles.

Q. But these were princes. If you recall the rise of the Prussian State and undoubtedly you have studied Cameralism, the distinction between the property of the princes and the property of the state is a very tenuous one?

A. It was not that point. It was the point of the existing law and I cannot recall now what point it was, but it was not because I thought they were historically entitled to something, but because the law protected them. The existing law.

Q. The term "them" refers to the princes?

A. Yes. It refers to princes.

Q. Am I correct in understanding you that you broke with the "Democraten" Party in 1926 entirely on the issue of the treatment to be accorded the property of the former princes of the royal houses?

A. Quite so. And I stated that in the letter to the President of the Party.

Q. What party did you then join?

A. No party at all.

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Q. So that you were not a member of any party in the middle of 1930?

A. Correct. I have never been or become a member of the Nazi Party.

Q. You were given honorable membership?

A. Yes. In January 1937. Between 1925 and 1937, I was not a member of any party.

Q. And it is further correct that you broke with the "Democraten Party" on the issue which they conceived to be the implementation of the Weimar Constitution?

A. I don't know whether they conceived it or not. But I disagreed with the intended measure.

Q. Would you wish to reexamine that provision of the Weimar Constitution in order to answer that question in terms of whether or not it is correct, that you broke on that issue? I have asked you whether you were a critic of the Weimar Republic. Your testimony discloses that you broke away from one of the "Democraten" Party on the issue of the treatment of the property of the royal princes. I am suggesting to you that their proposals were consistent with pertinent provisions of the Weimar Constitution?

A. I simply want to state that the "Democraten" party intention at that time was not in agreement with the constitution.

Q. You are unable at this time I take it, to cite any particular language of that document?

A. Quite.

Q. In order to discuss this matter further, it will be necessary to have the document in front of us.

A. It will be necessary to have the "Democraten" proposal of the time before you and then to see whether this proposal was in agreement with the Weimar Constitution or not.

Q. Did you support publicly any political personalities in the period between 1926 and 1932, when you came out for Hitler?

A. I don't think so.

Q. That was a period of complete political inactivity?

A. Quite.

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Q. Did your resignation from the Reichsbank in 1930 have any effect in your mind uponthe continuance inpower of Herman Mueller's administration?

A. I can't tell you.

Q. How shortly after your resignation was his government replaced by Bruening?

A. I think I made my resignation known on the 7th of March.

Q. Did Bruening ask you to remain?

A. No.

Q. I have been told, Mr. Schacht, that your resignation from the Reichsbank, justified or not as the case may be, was widely construed in Germany as a repudiation of the Weimar political system. Is that correct to the best of your knowledge?

A. I do not know whether it is correct. Some people might think that or might have thought so.

Q. How do you think?

A. It was the least of my intentions to do any political action.

Q. In the period between your resignation from the Reichsbank and your reappointment, were you engaged in activities which produced income or were you living on savings?

A. I had still my contract with the Reichsbank, and I still drew a salary from the Reichsbank. I don't know how long, but it was not more than a pension which was stipulated in my contract. I had no business connections whatever.

Q. When you made up your mind in 1923 to more or less support Hitler within the framework of his program as you then understood it, would it be correct to say that you were the most prominent financier or man with financial knowledge who was supporting Hitler?

A. I don't think very highly of my prominence. There might have been others. I don't know of others.

Q. I have not heard of any other either. I take it that neither you or I know of anyone else who was of your influence?

A. I know, for instance, of Herr von Schroeder in Cologne.

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Q. Did you have any discussions with Baron von Schroeder about supporting Hitler?

A. I don't believe so. I don't think so.

Q. You are familar with the fact that the initial contact between von Papen and Hitler was established through the intermediary of Baron von Schroeder? I have heard of that, have you?

A. Yes, I have heard of that.

Q. There is nothing about that fact that you can tell us?

A. I heard it only afterwards. I don't know the details.

Q. Do you regard Baron von Schroeder as a competent financier?

A. I don't think that he has great experience.

Q. Is von Schroeder considered a competent financier?

A. He himself used to be an army officer before he entered the firm, but the firm is amongst the most prominent firms in the banking firms of Germany, and I think they must have considered Baron von Schroeder as competent.

Q. Did you see any reasons for doubting that judgment?

A. None, except for his former career as an army officer. I know Herr von Stein rather well and he is the real head of that firm.

Q. Did you have any discussions with von Stein in 1931 or 1932, or any time prior to March 1933 with reference to the support of Hitler?

A. I don't think so.

Q. I want you to reconsider that question?

A. I might say that I might have had, at social gatherings, general talks with Herr von Stein as well as with Herr von Schroeder, but not of any importance as to supporting Hitler or similar aims.

Q. Now what persons were you dealing with in the early part of 1933, and the later part of 1932, when you decided to throw whatever weight you might have, because of your standing in the commercial world in Germany? What were the people or circles that you were trying to persuade that it would be a good idea to perhaps support Hitler?

A. I have not held any important discussions or seen larger circles at that time.

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Q. Suppose we forget about large discussions and suppose you leave to me to judge whether or not the meetings were important, and suppose you answer the question in this manner. With whom in German finance or industry did you have discussions between the time you came out publicly for Hitler and the time he became Chancellor in January 1933?

A. I don't think I had any discussions of that kind with any industrial groups or financial circles.

Q. I have discussed this question at some length with Waltner Funk, and he had indicated that there were 3 or 4 people who served in organizing German industry and finance to throw its weight behind Hitler. He was one of them, especially in the Ruhr Districts. Baron von Schroeder was another in the lower Rhine, and you were the third.

A. That is not correct, as far as I am concerned. I have never made propaganda for Hitler except by the public statements which went to the press.

Q. It will probably be necessary to come back to this question later. It stated here in this report: "Schacht is known to have helped some of his former Jewish friends who were oppressed by the Nazis." Is that correct?

A. That is right, very correct.

Q. "Schacht did declare publicly that the Jews must realize that there is no room for them in the Nazi economy."

A. That is entirely untrue. When in August 1934, I took over the management of the Ministry of Economics, I discussed with Hitler the problem of how to treat the Jews in the economic life. The answer of Hitler was that in the economic life, the Jews should be treated as any other citizen. This rule I have maintained very strongly against all Party desires of the opposite kind. I have had many cases where I could protect Jews against unjust claims of Party members. A good deal of those cases I had to bring before Hitler, and as long as I was inpower in the Ministry of Economics, no Jews have suffered from injustice in the economic field.

Q. Your answer does not explain how someone could say that you publicly declared "Jews must realize.....etc." How was that possible?

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A. I have made my answer and I believe it is very distinct. I said this statement is absolutely untrue. If I had made such a statement, It must have appeared somewhere without my knowledge, and I should like to see that source of information.

Q. We shall see.

Q. The last statement I have here is that "Schacht was awarded the Honorary Emblem of the Nazi Party" for his role in financing Germany's rearmament. He was publicly acclaimed for his contributions in this respect by General Von Blomberg who said, "Without your help, my dear doctor, none of this rearmament would have been possible."

A. The Golden Swastika was not given to me with any special motive attached to it, be it written or verbal. It was given to all the members of the cabinet at the 4th anniversary of the Party, on January 30, 1937. The public statement of thanks given to me was done by Hitler in January 1939, when I left the Reichsbank, by a letter which expressly stated that I had only financed the first period of rearmament, thus indicating that I was not willing to finance the second period. In fact, I was dismissed from the Reichsbank in January, 1939, because I refused to give money from the Reichsbank for armament, as I have stated before. I do not remember any public statement of Von Blomberg, and I doubt it very much that any such declaration was made of General Von Blomberg, about the financing of the armament, since the end of 1936.

Q. When was the first period of the German rearmament?

A. Approximately in the beginning of 1933, or the end of 1934.

Q. If General Von Blomberg were to have made such a statement in January, 1937, it would have been a true statement that without your help in the Reichsbank, it would never have been possible to finance the German rearmament?

A. It would.

Q. So that your denial is not to the contents of the statement but only to the fact whether the statement was made at all?

A. Yes sir.

Interrogation ended at XXXXX 4:35.

I state that the answers given by me in this statement consisting of page 21 to 38 pages each initialled by me are true and correct.

Hjalmar Schacht

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USA-615

H3202 – 0022

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 22 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3425-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-615 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3202 - 0023

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3725-PS No. USA-615 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

Nuremberg, 6 July 1948

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Exhibit USA 615

Filed Jan. 10, 1946

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J.: H. SCHACHT, 20 JULY 1945

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17 pages